

I Claim:

- 1    1. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system; the method  
2       comprising the steps of:  
3             (a) in no particular order:
  - 4                 (1) measuring a first temperature of said refrigerant in a saturated state;  
5                 and  
6                 (2) measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in a liquid state;  
7                 and  
8                 (b) calculating a difference between said first temperature and said second  
9                 temperature to determine the extant amount of subcooling to which said  
10          refrigerant is subjected.
- 1    2. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in  
2       Claim 1 wherein the method comprises the further step of:  
3             (c) comparing said extant amount of subcooling with a predetermined acceptable  
4             amount of subcooling.
- 1    3. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in  
2       Claim 2 wherein the method comprises the further step of:  
3             (d) changing amount of refrigerant in said cooling system when said extant  
4             amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of  
5             subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.
- 1    4. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in  
2       Claim 1 wherein the method comprises the further step of:  
3             (c) adding refrigerant to said cooling system when said extant amount of  
4             subcooling is less than a predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling.
- 1    5. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in  
2       Claim 3 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3                   (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) until said extant amount of subcooling differs  
4                   from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than said  
5                   predetermined amount.

1       6. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in  
2           Claim 4 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3                   (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) until said extant amount of subcooling differs  
4                   from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a  
5                   predetermined amount.

1       7. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system; said  
2           system including a first system portion in which said refrigerant is substantially  
3           always in a saturated state and a second system portion in which said refrigerant is  
4           substantially always in a liquid state; the method comprising the steps of:

5                   (a) in no particular order:

6                      (1) measuring a first temperature of said refrigerant in said first system  
7                      portion; and

8                      (2) measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in said second  
9                      system portion;

10                  (b) calculating a difference between said first temperature and said second  
11                  temperature to determine the extant amount of subcooling effected by said system.

1       8. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited  
2           in Claim 7 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3                   (c) comparing said extant amount of subcooling with a predetermined acceptable  
4                   amount of subcooling.

1       9. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited  
2           in Claim 8 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3           (d) changing amount of refrigerant in said cooling system when said extant  
4           amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of  
5           subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.

1       10. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited  
2       in Claim 7 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3           (c) adding refrigerant to said system when said extant amount of subcooling  
4           differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a  
5           predetermined amount.

1       11. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited  
2       in Claim 9 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3           (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) until said extant amount of subcooling differs  
4           from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than said  
5           predetermined amount.

1       12. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited  
2       in Claim 10 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3           (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) until said extant amount of subcooling differs  
4           from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a  
5           predetermined amount.

1       13. A compression cooling system comprising:

2           (a) a compressor, an evaporator and a condenser fluidly coupled by at least one  
3           fluid carrying line containing a refrigerant;  
4           (b) a first temperature measuring device connected with said system for measuring  
5           a first temperature of said refrigerant in a saturated state; and  
6           (c) a second temperature measuring device connected with said system for  
7           measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in a liquid state.

1    14. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 13 wherein the system further  
2    comprises:

3        (d) a calculating device coupled with said first temperature measuring device and  
4        said second temperature measuring device; said calculating device calculating a  
5        difference between said first temperature and said second temperature to  
6        determine an extant amount of subcooling effected by said system.

1    15. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 14 wherein the system further  
2    comprises:

3        (e) fluid access fittings in said fluid carrying line for effecting fluid  
4        communication with the system from without the system; said fluid access fittings  
5        being configured to accommodate a user coupling a refrigerant source with said  
6        fittings for changing charge of said refrigerant within said system when said  
7        extant amount of subcooling differs from a predetermined acceptable amount of  
8        subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.

1    16. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said predetermined  
2        acceptable amount of subcooling is provided to said user by a tool; said tool being  
3        external of said system.

1    17. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said predetermined  
2        acceptable amount of subcooling is provided to said user by said calculating device.

1    18. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 13 wherein the system further  
2    comprises:  
3        (e) fluid access fittings in said at least one fluid carrying line for effecting fluid  
4        communication with the system from without the system; said fluid access fittings  
5        being configured to accommodate a user coupling a refrigerant source with said  
6        fittings for changing charge of said refrigerant within said system when said

7 extant amount of subcooling differs from a predetermined acceptable amount of  
8 subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.